

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 ADOPTS RESOLUTIONS ON MILITARY
BASES, ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

1. IN A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN LATE AUGUST, THE UNGA'S
COMMITTEE OF 24 (DECOLONIZATION) HEARD STANDARD SPEECHES
AND ADOPTED A STANDARD CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ON MILITARY
ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN
NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES. THE SPEECHES ON FOREIGN
ECONOMIC INTERESTS "WHICH IMPEDE THE PROCESS OF DECOLONI-
ZATION" FOLLOWED WELL-WORN GROOVES BUT, INSTEAD OF THE
EXPECTED CONSENSUS, AUSTRALIA CALLED FOR A VOTE AND LOST
RESOUNDINGLY.

2. ON MILITARY ACTIVITIES, THE C-24 UPDATED ITS 1977
RESOLUTION, PRINCIPALLY BY REFLECTING THE EXISTENCE OF
THE NEW UN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND THE OAU
KHARTOUM SUMMIT RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH
SOUTH AFRICA. IN GENERAL, THE 1978 LANGUAGE CLOSELY
FOLLOWS THAT OF 1977, AVOIDING BLANKET CONDEMNATIONS AND
RESTRICTING ITS CRITICISMS OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES AND
ACTIVITIES TO THOSE WHICH "ARE DETRIMENTAL TO THE INTERESTS
AND RIGHTS OF THE COLONIAL PEOPLES CONCERNED".

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3. ON ECONOMIC INTERESTS, THE DEBATE FOLLOWED GENERALLY
PREDICTABLE LINES, WITH THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WEIGHING
IN THE HEAVIEST AGAINST THE ACTIVITIES OF TRANSNATIONALS
AND WESTERN FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN GENERAL. CHILE GAVE
PERHAPS THE MOST EFFECTIVE SPEECH IN DEFENSE OF A ROLE
FOR PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT. THE RESOLUTION, WITH

AMENDMENTS BY MALI AND IRAQ, WAS CLOSELY PATTERNED ON THE COMMITTEE'S 1977 RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT, COMING DOWN SOMEWHAT HARDER ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. UNEXPECTEDLY, AUSTRALIA CALLED FOR A VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION WHICH WAS ADOPTED BY 22-0-2, AUSTRALIA AND SWEDEN ABSTAINING. CHILE, FIJI AND THE IVORY COAST, WHILE SUPPORTING THE CONSENSUS, MADE STATEMENTS OF RESERVATION CONCERNING SOME OF THE SWEEPING GENERALIZATIONS IT CONTAINS.

4. AS USUAL, THE TWO C-24 RESOLUTIONS ON THESE SUBJECTS WILL BECOME THE BASIS FOR THE 33RD UNGA FOURTH COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATIONS ON THESE SAME SUBJECTS. LEONARD

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